# Historic Building Appraisal
## Tin Hau Temple
## Tung Tau Tsuen, Yuen Long, N.T.

Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Tung Tau Tsuen (東頭村) was built in the 51ˢᵗ year (1712) of the Kangxi reign (康熙, 1662-1722), Qing (清) dynasty, as the temple bell has the dating inscribed on it. The temple was built by Tang Man-Wai (鄧文蔚), a prominent member of the Kam Tin (錦田) Tangs who set up the Yuen Long Kau Hui (元朗舊墟, Yuen Long Old Market). Tung Tau Tsuen, literally village to the east, is so called as it is in the east of the old market. However the village was not occupied by the Tangs but mainly by the Chans (陳), the Loks (駱) and the Lis (李) from Dongguan (東莞) some 300 years ago and was originally called Chan Lok Li Tsuen (陳駱李村). The temple was for the worship of Tin Hau and Kwun Yam (觀音) deities. It is said that not many villagers of Tung Tau Tsuen went to the temple as it was built by the Tangs who had no good relationship with the villagers. The temple is managed by the Kwong Yu Tong (光裕堂) of the Kam Tin Tangs.

*Historical Interest*

The temple is a simple structure having two halls and one courtyard flanked by two side chambers, one to the right and one to the left. The chamber on the right has collapsed and the roof of the main hall has come down too covered with corrugated sheets. Much of the original greenbrick walls are concreted and so is the floor with concrete screeding. The only decorations are the facia boards and the ridge with geometric and floral patterns.

*Architectural Merit*

It is a Tin Hau temple of local context of over 290 years of history.

*Rarity*

The built heritage value of this simple temple is low especially it has not been well maintained.

*Built Heritage Value*

The temple was last renovated in 2000 with fund from Kwong Yu Tong. Much of its interior has been altered and ill repaired.

*Authenticity*

The temple is not a popular one but would be given offerings on each 19ᵗʰ or 20ᵗʰ day of the first lunar month by the Kam Tin Tangs.

*Social Value, & Local Interest*